

BOARD MEETINGS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BED
(LOCAL)

**Limit on
Participation**

Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the portion of the meeting designated to receive public comment in accordance with this policy. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience will not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.

Members of the public are to remain in the area designated for the public and not approach the Board during the meeting except to speak from the speaker's podium.

Public Comment

Regular Meetings

At regular Board meetings, the Board will permit public comment, regardless of whether the topic is an item on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

Special Meetings

At all other Board meetings, public comments are limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

Procedures

Individuals who wish to participate during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment must sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the public comments portion of the meeting has concluded or 15 minutes after the start of the meeting, whichever is earlier, as specified in the Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item or topic on which they wish to address the Board.

Public comment will occur at the beginning of the meeting.

Except as permitted by this policy and the Board's procedures on public comment, an individual's comments to the Board are limited to three minutes per meeting.

Meeting
Management

When necessary for effective meeting management or to accommodate large numbers of individuals wishing to address the Board, the presiding officer may make adjustments to public comment procedures, including adjusting when public comment will occur during the meeting, reordering agenda items, deferring public comment on nonagenda items, continuing agenda items to a later meeting, providing expanded opportunity for public comment, or establishing an overall time limit for public comment and adjusting the time allotted to each speaker. However, no individual will be given less than one minute to make comments.

Board's Response

The Board is prohibited by law from responding to questions from the public during a meeting. Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board cannot deliberate or decide any matter that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

**Complaints and
Concerns**

The presiding officer or designee may determine whether an individual addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If not, the individual may be referred to the appropriate policy to seek resolution:

- Employee complaints: DGBA
- Student or parent complaints: FNG
- Public complaints: GF

Disruption

Every speaker has the right to use his or her time to speak without interruption, and no person may engage in conduct that *disrupts* the meeting. Disruption means speech or action that interferes with the Board's orderly conduct of the meeting or interferes with another speaker's right to address the Board and the Board's ability to hear the speaker.

Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

1. Interrupting or otherwise interfering with a speaker while they are addressing the Board;
2. A breach of the peace, including the use of abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language;
3. Threats of violence or bodily harm;
4. Actual violence; and
5. Disobedience of any request of the presiding officer, which includes a request to be seated or to remove items that obstruct the view of other audience members, impede ingress or egress, or obstruct the aisles or passageways.

Other conduct, such as intimidating behavior or words, raucous/extended applause, booing, cheering, or other audible expressions of approval or disapproval of another person's comments, is prohibited to the extent it disrupts the meeting.

The Board will not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience.

If, after at least one warning from the presiding officer, any individual continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the presiding officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the individual removed from the meeting.